

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

It is noted that Claims 1, 4, 7-9, 12, 15-17, 19-22, 25, 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) over the U.S. patent to Doumani.

At the same time, the Examiner indicated that Claims 23 and 24 were not rejected over the art and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The Examiner's indication of allowability of these claims has been gratefully acknowledged.

In the present Amendment applicant amended Claim 1 by introducing into it the features of Claims 7 and 23. The dependent Claims 7 and 23 have been cancelled.

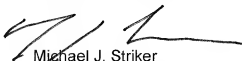
It is respectfully submitted that the new features of the present invention which are now defined in amended Claim 1 are not disclosed in the prior art represented by the patent to Doumani, and therefore Claim 1 should be considered as patentably distinguishing over the art and should be allowed.

As for the dependent claims, these claims depend on Claim 1, they share its allowable features, and they should be allowed as well.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application is most respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require or consider it advisable that the specification, claims and/or drawings be further amended or corrected in formal respects in order to place this case in condition for final allowance, then it is respectfully requested that such amendments or corrections be carried out by Examiner's Amendment, and the case be passed to issue. Alternatively, should the Examiner feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance; he is invited to telephone the undersigned (at 631-549-4700).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael J. Striker', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael J. Striker
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 27233